6:Alexandre and Binet--; G-5 (1946-1954) 1958 FH9 Fang FH9

/v/ Preface

Since 1945 the International African Institute has been engaged in the preparation and publication of a series of ethnographic studies of Africa, with the purpose of presenting in convenient form a summary of contemporary knowledge about the various African peoples, as to natural environment, economy and industries, social structure, political organization, religious beliefs and rituals. The material that has already been published provides a basis for these studies, and numerous unpublished documents derived from administrative reports and from the archives of missionary societies are being put to use in the same way as are field observations and special communications by ethnologists and qualified persons. Each volume in this series is devoted to a people, or group of related peoples, and contains a detailed bibliography and a map.

The committee for the series was set up under the chairmanship of /the late/ Professor Radcliffe-Brown; the director of the Institute is in charge of editorial organization. The generous cooperation of many research institutes and administrative officers in Europe and in the African countries has been promised, as have the services of experienced ethnologists.

The work was undertaken with the aid of a subsidy from United Kingdom Colonial Development and Welfare Funds on the recommendation of the Social Science Research Council /of the Colonial Office/. This subsidy has been employed mainly, but not entirely, to finance studies dealing with countries under United Kingdom jurisdiction. An additional subsidy from the government of the /former/ Anglo-Egyptian Sudan contributed to the preparation and publication of the volumes devoted to that territory.

The Ministry of Oversea France and the Institut Français d'Afrique Noire /French Institute of Black Africa/ have shown interest in this undertaking, and thanks to their good offices subsidies have been granted by the governments of French West Africa and the French Cameroons toward the preparation and publication of volumes pertaining to those regions. These volumes have been edited by French ethnologists, with the assistance and advice of Professor Griaule of the Sorbonne and of Father Th. Monod, director of the Institut Français d'Afrique Noire.